



# NEWS

CAP National Headquarters  
Public Affairs  
105 S. Hansell St.  
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112  
Toll free: 877-227-9142, x250

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## **CAP NCO corps' numbers, role to expand through restructuring**

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala.** – Civil Air Patrol's noncommissioned officer corps is poised to become a larger and far more significant and dynamic facet of the all-volunteer organization's operations and missions.

Under a plan approved and signed by Air Force Manpower and Reserve Affairs Assistant Secretary Daniel Ginsberg, CAP's NCO program is being restructured to align with the U.S. Air Force's structure for NCOs.

Maj. Gen. Chuck Carr, CAP's national commander, himself a retired Air Force master sergeant, said he looks forward to the NCOs' expanded role in bolstering the organization's capabilities and mission readiness.

"NCOs are the backbone of the military services," Carr said. "They will fulfill just as valuable a role throughout CAP."

Until now, only former active-duty NCOs were allowed to join CAP's NCO corps, and then only at the ranks they held in the military. No upgrade training was available for promotion within the NCO ranks.

Under the restructured program, though, that will change. The newly approved corps structure will mirror the Air Force NCO force structure, with an established process to promote and develop NCOs.

In addition, NCOs will be eligible for any CAP position, including pilots, at all organizational levels – squadron, group, wing, region or national – except for those reserved for officers, such as unit commander.

For now, eligibility for the NCO corps is limited to those who now hold or have previously held the military grades of E-5 through E-9 – staff sergeant, technical sergeant, master sergeant, senior master sergeant and chief master sergeant – in the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard.

Along with making the organization more appealing to past and present military NCOs, the restructured program is also designed to provide CAP commanders at all levels with greater access to the professional military skills, training and experience that the NCOs can readily provide. CAP members without military backgrounds are also expected to benefit from their NCO colleagues' expertise in military organization, leadership and management.

In addition to Ginsberg, Carr credited the Air Force Air Staff for their involvement in developing the NCO plan:

- Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Manpower and Reserve Affairs – Gordon Tanner, Sheila Earle, Bill Booth, Tom Shubert and Kathy Schmockel Simonton.
- Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, General Counsel – Bill Druschel
- Air Force, Judge Advocate – Lt. Col. Maren Calvert
- Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements – Lt. Col. Alexis Kimber and Maj. Aletha Cooke and Jeremy Hodges

To learn more about Civil Air Patrol and its role as the Air Force auxiliary, visit [http://www.capmembers.com/cap\\_university/cap-familiarization-course/](http://www.capmembers.com/cap_university/cap-familiarization-course/).

*Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 61,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 80 lives annually. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 26,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet programs. CAP received the World Peace Prize in 2011 and has been performing missions for America for 72 years. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com) or [www.capvolunteernow.com](http://www.capvolunteernow.com) for more information.*

**Contact info:** Julie DeBardelaben – [jdebardelaben@capnhq.gov](mailto:jdebardelaben@capnhq.gov) – 334-953-7748, ext. 250  
Steve Cox – [scox@capnhq.gov](mailto:scox@capnhq.gov) – 334-953-7748, ext. 251